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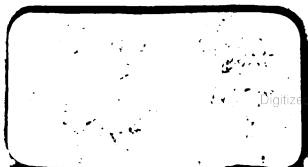
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GEORGEY'S MENAGERIE.



BY
MRS. MADELINE LESLIE

GEORGEY'S MENAGERIE.

THE CAMEL.

BY

MRS. MADELINE LESLIE,

AUTHOR OF "ROBIN'S NEST," "LITTLE FRANKIE," "MINNIE AND HER PETS,"
THE "LESLIE STORIES," AND NUMEROUS OTHER BOOKS
FOR THE YOUNG.

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GEORGEY'S MENAGERIE.

VOLUME I. THE LION.

VOLUME II. THE ELEPHANT. •

VOLUME III. THE CAMEL.

VOLUME IV. THE WOLF.

VOLUME V. THE BEAR.

VOLUME VI. THE DEER.

These Small Volumes

ON

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ANIMALS

**WHOSE STRUCTURE AND HABITS SO CLEARLY EVINCE THE BEING,
WISDOM, AND POWER OF GOD, ARE AFFECTIONATELY
INSCRIBED TO**

FRANCIS DAVIS BAKER,

BY HIS LOVING MOTHER,

**IN THE EARNEST HOPE THAT THEY MAY LEAD HIS TENDER MIND
THROUGH NATURE UP TO NATURE'S GOD.**

THE CAMEL.

CHAPTER I.

VISIT TO THE MENAGERIE.

THE day had been excessively warm. About noon a thunder-storm set in, which greatly cooled and refreshed the hot, parched earth. When the shower was past, Georgey Ray sat with his uncle on the piazza, watching the many-

tinted rainbow painted on the sky.

Suddenly they heard the sound of music, and presently a long, gorgeously painted chariot, containing a band of musicians, drove by.

“What is it, uncle Thomas?” breathlessly inquired the boy; his eyes ready to start from their sockets.

“It is Van Amburg’s Menagerie, my dear. I saw in the

paper that it was to be at S—
to-morrow; I think you and I
must ride over there.”

Georgey gave a scream of
delight; and at this moment
another huge carriage came
into view, drawn by four prancing horses.

“They are all going to pass
here, I see,” added the gentleman, partaking of his nephew’s
excitement.

“Oh, where is mother! I

want her to see it. Oh, uncle Thomas! will the elephant be in a cage?"

Here, without waiting for an answer, George, unselfish boy that he was, ran to find his mamma, and beg her to come and enjoy his pleasure.

When he returned to the piazza, the large wagon he had seen was still in sight, and another was slowly mounting the hill. These, as his uncle

informed him, contained the cages of the wild animals, suggesting that he might at any moment hear the roar of a lion.

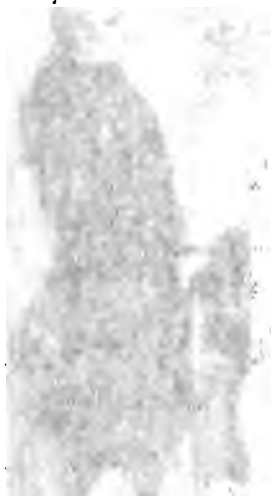
Before he had at all recovered from the excitement which the mere sight of the cages and the music of the band had produced, a still more novel spectacle came in view, — a huge monster, mounted on four stout pillars of flesh, and decked with bright-colored

trappings, stalked majestically along the road.

“O mother! look! O Uncle Thomas! There is a real, live elephant!”

Georgey's eyes expressed the astonishment which he could not find words to convey.

“And what is that ungainly-looking creature, Georgey, just appearing at the brow of the hill? See how awkwardly he walks along, as if he would



ten, twenty, eighty-nine miles, and
thirty, forty miles.

"Don't look! Don't
look! There is a great
dark!"

Don't say any more, or
astonish me with
your words because

"And what is that ring
of light, creature, that is
glowing at the bottom
of the sea how close
to the ring, as if it



"IT IS A CAMEL! A REAL CAMEL!" Page 15.

shake himself to pieces at every step."

"It's a camel ! a real camel !" shouted the boy ; "I see the humps on his back."

Three, four, five more wag-
ons passed, loaded, as Mr. Sears
explained, with cages, and then
came other teams carrying long
poles and sail-cloth for the
tent.

Georgey watched till all
were out of sight, at great loss

for words ; then with a long breath he said, " I hope Jimmy and Willie, and all the boys, will go to the menagerie. Isn't it funny, uncle ? You promised to tell us about the Camel next, and now I've seen a live one walk right along."

" Yes, child, his visit has occurred very fortunately for us. You can see the half-tamed lion pace restlessly back and forth in his cage, and the ele-

phant feed himself with his trunk ; and the camel kneel at the command of his keeper to receive his burden. No doubt there will be bears and wolves too, which you can have an opportunity to compare with your own."

"I never saw deer in a menagerie," remarked Mrs. Ray.

"No ; but some day I'll take Georgey to the city, to see those in the public gardens."

“He reminds me of you when you were his age,” said the lady, laughing. “He has just your fondness for animals.”

“Yes,” answered the gentleman, archly, “I can sympathize with him in all his enthusiasm. George, I hope all your companions will go to-morrow. It will be a fine chance for them, and they will understand what I tell them much better.”

“Suppose you hire an express

wagon and take them all," suggested the lady. "There are only ten, including George."

"Oh, yes, uncle! and then you could explain about the animals there." The boy looked very wishful.

"Well, I'll think of it. I suppose Michael could find a wagon that would take us all."

The next morning dawned bright and beautiful. Before ten o'clock, arrangements for

the party to the menagerie were all complete. Michael drove into the yard a long, open wagon, into which four seats had been fitted just as the last boy came running up the steps.

It would be difficult to describe the delight of the children, manifested as it was by bright eyes and beaming faces and animated gestures. Uncle Thomas told his sister, in a

low tone, that he was more than repaid for all his expense by seeing them look so happy.

I have not time to describe here all that they saw and heard on that long-to-be-remembered day ; but shall bring it in from time to time in the course of my small volumes.

In the evening they returned to their homes, thanking Mr. Sears again and again for his kindness in thinking of them.

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF CAMELS.

WHEN the gentleman entered the menagerie the next evening, he found his audience engaged in an animated conversation in regard to the likeness of the wooden camel to the live one they had seen the day before.

When they had fully dis-

cussed the merits of the representative before them, he said :

“ Now, children, if you will take your seats, I will introduce you to the Camel, who has well been named the Ship of the Desert.

“ There is something strange and imposing in the appearance of this gaunt and angular animal, destitute as it is of grace and animation. As you looked at it yesterday, you were

amazed at its height, its uncouth proportions, its long, thin neck, its meagre limbs, and the huge humps on its back, which give one the idea of deformity.

“ Quietly and meekly it stands in one fixed attitude, its long-lashed eyelids drooping over the large, dark eyes ; presently it moves, and onward stalks with slow and measured step, as if exercise were painful. You noticed, too, its shag-

gy hair, in one place forming tangled masses ; in another, almost wanting. Its thick upper lip is deeply divided ; its feet are large and spreading, the toes being merely tipped with little hoofs. Such is the Bactrian camel. In form and proportions it is the very opposite to our usual ideas of perfection and beauty. There is nothing whatever in the external appearance of the ani-

mal to indicate the existence of any of its excellent qualities.

“ Possessing strength and activity surpassing that of most beasts of burden, docile, patient of hunger and thirst, and contented with small quantities of the coarsest provender, the camel is one of the most valuable gifts of Providence. There is no creature more excellently adapted to its

situation ; nor is there one in which more of God's creative wisdom is displayed in the peculiarities of its organization.

“To the Arabs and other wanderers in the desert, the camel is at once wealth, subsistence, and protection. Their strength and fleetness render their masters the terror of their enemies, and secure them from pursuit — a few hours being sufficient to place leagues

of trackless desert between them and their foes.

“The milk of the females furnishes the Arab with a large part of his nutriment ; the flesh of the young animals is one of his greatest luxuries ; of the skins he forms tents ; the different sorts of hair or wool shed by the camel are wrought into various fabrics ; and its dried dung constitutes excellent fuel ; the only kind,

indeed, to be obtained throughout vast regions of country.

“It is highly probable that the camel has long ceased to exist in its wild and natural state, as it has been enslaved by man from the earliest times of which we have record.

“You will remember that among the stock composing the wealth of the patriarch Job, after his afflictions, we find six thousand camels enu-

merated ; not wild, but already subject to man's use ; and especially the great instrument of commercial intercourse.

“ We read, too, that when Joseph's wicked brethren, having cast him into the pit, sat down to eat bread, ‘ they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm, and myrrh, going

to carry it down to Egypt.’ And in the Book of Judges, we learn of Gideon, the mighty warrior, ‘who slew Zebah and Zalmunnah and took away the ornaments that were on their camels’ necks.’

“It would be difficult, if not impossible, to estimate the blessings which have come to mankind by means of this patient, much-enduring animal. The first command ever made

to man by his Creator, not only required him to 'subdue and replenish the earth,' but gave him 'dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'

"The first trade in Indian commodities of which we have any account, was the one I just mentioned, where the Ishmaelites were carrying their

spices down to Egypt ; and before this we do not read of any animal being already subjected to the rule of man.

“ From that early period to the present, the camel has ever been of inestimable value in commerce, especially in the sterile regions of the desert, which is his home.

“ This animal has of late years become of great interest to us, from the fact that it is

now used in traversing the deserts which lie between New Mexico and California, and is likely to become an important means of communication between those hitherto almost impassable regions of our extended territories.

“There are two kinds of camels, the Bactrian, like the wooden one, having two humps on his back, and the Arabian camel having one hump. This

last, sometimes called a dromedary, is of a lighter form and a more rapid motion than the Bactrian. Naturalists say the dromedary means the swift species of this animal; and the camel, that species that bears burdens. The first is to the second just what a race-horse is to the draught-horse.

“There are three varieties of dromedaries, — the brown or Caucasian, which is stouter

and more robust than the others; the Egyptian, which is of large size and covered with short gray hair; and the White, which is, in fact, whitish gray — the head, neck, hump, and fore limbs being covered with long hair.

“The dromedaries are wholly used in crossing the wastes of the great Desert Sahara, more appalling than the waves of the sea; where, indeed, whole

caravans have been buried in the drifting billows of sand, and where in some places the surface of the earth is whitened with the bones of men and camels which have perished from thirst.

“This species is the one used by the Hebrews in the patriarchal ages; and it appears that they first introduced it into Egypt. At the present day, multitudes of dromedaries

are seen not only in caravans crossing the desert, but in the cities of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, Cairo, and Alexandria ; and indeed throughout Africa, Arabia, and Syria."

CHAPTER III.

HABITS OF THE CAMEL.

“WHAT part of the camel shall you describe to-night, Uncle Thomas?” inquired Georgy, when the boys were all seated.

“I think, my dear, we will begin with his foot. He treads flat on his toes, and not, like the ox, on a thick hoof. You

remember at the menagerie the other day I showed you the cushion or pad on which he treads. This pad reaches from toe to toe, and extends beyond them at the sides, the horn-covered tips or nails being alone free and separate."

"I should think the stones would hurt them," exclaimed Willie Morse, in a sympathizing tone.

"The God of the camel has

provided against that, my boy," answered the gentleman. "Though the cushion is soft and elastic next to the toes, it is hard and calloused on the bottom. Did you ever see a boy walk barefoot ? "

" Oh yes, sir ! Eddy Strong never wears shoes all summer ; and he says his feet are so tough that a nail couldn't get through the skin."

" I should be afraid to send

him among nails," said Uncle Thomas, laughing; "but the camel's foot is of the same kind only that it becomes so hard and horny that it can tread on sharp stones or among the thorny branches of the acacia tree without fear of injury.

"But the pads on its feet are not the only ones belonging to the camel. He has nine, just suited to his wants, each covered with a callous sub-

stance as his feet are. The largest one is on his breast; another is on each shoulder and knee of the fore limbs; so also on each knee of the hind limbs, and a small one is on each hough. You will see these on this camel, as you did on the living one the other day. You remember when the animal kneeled down how exactly they answered the purpose, and kept the poor tired crea-

ture from injuring itself on the ground. These natural cushions are not produced by the habit of kneeling, as some have supposed; for the young camel is born with the principal ones already formed. A similar callous pad is spread on the breast of the ostrich which dwells in the desert, and which, like this animal, reclines on the chest. Can any one doubt, after a careful study of the ani-

mal creation, that God has a care for all his creatures, and has adapted them to the particular place they are to occupy ?

“ The desert, the home of the camel, is a vast flat, covered with sand and exposed to a burning sky. Elevated, as it carries its head, the camel can discern the green oasis, or little spots of fertility, in the sea of sand at a great distance ; and so acute is its sense of

smell, that it can scent the far-distant water, when, obstinately turning from the path in which he is directed by the driver, he bends his course directly toward it, and thus sometimes saves the caravan from destruction by thirst.

“To shield the large eyeball from the glare of light reflected from the sand, a beetling brow overarches it, and long lashes fringe the upper lid.

“At certain seasons of the year, there are destructive winds sweeping across the deserts called simoons, which in their progress roll up waves and mountains of sand, often burying men and camels, and sometimes whole caravans, in their desolating course. In order to prevent the sand from entering the camel's nostrils, they are so formed that the animal can close them at will.”

“Why, how very curious!” exclaimed Georgey.

“Yes, my boy ; it is curious, but a most merciful provision of nature. They are in the form of slits growing toward each other, higher at the edge so that they are capable of being shut down like the lid of a box, or left open at the animal’s pleasure.”

“You said, Uncle Thomas, you’d tell something funny

about the humps on the camel's backs," reminded the boy, archly.

"The Arabs say that camels live upon their humps."

"What, eat them?" exclaimed the children, in astonishment.

"I will tell you. When an Arab is about to set out on a journey through the desert, the first thing he does is to examine his camel's hump or

hunch. If it is not full and solid, he says to himself, 'I must wait a little, and feed the poor creature better.' But if the hump is full and plump, he is ready to start at once. He well knows that in case all other food should fail, his camel can live on his hump, or derive nourishment from its fat sufficient to keep him from starving, for several days together. Jockeys when about

to sell a camel resort to various contrivances to make the hump look plump and solid. Sometimes they perforate the skin, and blow it up, as a dishonest butcher does his meat, to make it look fat.

Often when the traveller reaches the end of a long and painful journey the humps, which were full of fat at starting, are wholly absorbed, the skin lying loosely over them,

and only the long hair which covers them showing where they once lay."

"I always thought their humps were made of bone," said Jimmy, his black eyes beaming, with astonishment.

"No ; they are fat, and said to be the most delicious part of the animal when used for food. In travelling, however, his hump never disappears until he has grown quite thin

elsewhere ; and as it is the last part of his body which shows his approach to starvation, so it is the last to fill up when, at the end of his journey, he is well fed.

“ Care is always taken when loading the camel to prevent the burden from rubbing or chafing the hump. If it becomes ulcerated, the most unhappy and fatal results follow. A species of fly lays its eggs

in the wound, which causes great pain and finally death.

“What do camels eat, Mr. Sears?” inquired Conny.

“Thorny shrubs, date leaves, the seed pods of the acacia, thistles, and the young leaves and branches of the tamarisk, are its usual diet ; but dates, beans, the hard kernels of which it crushes to powder, balls of paste, with cakes of barley provided by its master,

suffice to refresh it on its wearisome pilgrimage when herbage and browse are wanting. With its powerful lip the animal snatches at the dry twigs as it travels on its slow and painful march, often to the discomfort of the inexperienced traveller, who, if he is not on the look-out, will be thrown over its head.

“Hard and scanty is the desert fare of the camel; but

oftentimes the supply fails altogether, and the travel-worn beast is put on short allowance of whatever his master has in reserve for such emergencies ; then it is that the traveller sees the utility of the hump, which seemed at first like a deformity." The hump may be called a magazine against a time of want, to which the system has recourse when other supplies are inadequate."

CHAPTER IV.

TRAINING OF CAMELS.

“TO-NIGHT,” began Mr. Sears, “I will tell you one other peculiarity in the formation of the camel, which, more than everything else, fits this wonderful creature for its life in the desert. In tracking over the vast sandy plains, the Arabs often traverse long,

weary days without a sight of water. The small quantity carried in the leathern sacks is only sufficient for the use of the master; and unless the animal has some resources of his own, he must die of thirst.

“How wonderful, then, is that provision of nature which God has given the camel! Beside the four stomachs common to most ruminating animals, this beast has a fifth bag,

which serves him as a reservoir to contain water. This fifth stomach is of so vast a capacity as to contain a great quantity of liquor, where it remains without corruption. When the animal is pressed with thirst, or has occasion to moisten his dry food to prepare it for rumination, as chewing his cud is called, he causes a part of this water to reascend into one of his other stomachs,

and even to the throat, by a simple contraction of the muscles. This extra stomach enables the animal to drink a large quantity of water at one time; because he drinks not only to quench present thirst, but to lay in a store for future want.

“In consequence of these peculiarities, fitting him for the arid wastes with which that part of the country abounds, the Arabs regard the camel as

a present from heaven, — a sacred animal, — without whose aid they could neither subsist, trade, nor travel. Blessed with their camels, they not only want for nothing, but they fear nothing. With their faithful beast they can in a single day place a tract of desert of fifty miles between them and their enemies, and all the armies in the world would perish in the pursuit

of a troop of camel-fleeing Arabs.

“Try to picture to yourself a country where there is no verdure and no water ; a burning sun, a sky always clear ; plains covered with sand, and mountains still more parched, over which the eye extends and sight is lost, with not one single living object to break the view ; nothing but bones of men and beasts

bleached to a snowy whiteness; small pointed stones scattered here and there, and rocks upright or overthrown; a desert entirely naked; where the traveller seldom drew his breath under the friendly shade;—try to realize all this, and you can perhaps better understand what the camel must be to the Arabs, who live in such regions. By its faithful service this barren land serves

him for a home, secures his happiness, and maintains his independence.

“In order to march over the desert, the Arab early hardens himself to the fatigues of travelling. He accustoms himself to pass many days without sleep, to suffer hunger, thirst, and heat.”

“I’m glad we don’t live there,” exclaimed Georgey, with a sigh of relief.

“So am I,” said Uncle Thomas, heartily ; “but I was going to tell you that, at the same time, he is hardening himself, the Arab instructs his camels. According to one naturalist: ‘A few days after they are born, he bends their legs under their bellies, and forces them to remain in this position. Next, he loads them with a weight as heavy as they can carry, which he only re-

lieves them from to give them a heavier. Instead of suffering them to feed every hour, and drink when they are thirsty, he only gives them food at long intervals, and by degrees diminishes also the quantity. When they are stronger he exercises them to the course, and endeavors to make them light of foot and active, as well as robust.’”

“ I shouldn't think they

would treat their camels so," said little Annie, tearfully.

"I don't think, my dear, that many owners do this. Almost all travellers speak of the fondness of the Arab for his horse and camel, which constitutes a part of his family. I think another account of the training of young camels, given by a celebrated naturalist, is much more truthful.

"For eight days the young

foal is swathed in broad bands, to make him a good shape. In the spring he is sheared ; and for a year sucks when he pleases, and follows his dam at will. He is not yet troubled with lessons, and is as free as if in a wild state. He is an inmate of the tent, a playfellow of the children, and both habit and gratitude attach him to the family, whom he feels to be his friends.

“When the time for weaning arrives, one of his nostrils is pierced with a sharp stick four inches long, which is left remaining in the wound; and when it attempts to suck, it pricks the dam, who repulses him with kicks, so that he soon betakes himself to the green grass of the season.

“The second spring he is again sheared, and then his education commences.

“For the first lesson they put on him a halter, the rein of which is made to shackle one leg, and he is kept motionless, at first by gestures and the voice, and then by the voice alone. The halter is now loosened from his leg, but put on again if he takes a step. He now begins to understand what is wanted, and this lesson is repeated until he will stand all day, with his halter drag-

ging, where his master has placed him. An iron ring is now passed through the nostril and permanently riveted. Into this the camel's-hair rope is placed, connecting with the rein of the halter.

“These important steps taken, the next thing is to accustom the camel to the saddle. This has a broad, high back, into which the rider sits, as in a bowl, crossing his legs over the

neck of the animal, secured on all sides. The least pull of the rein upon the nose-ring is so painful that the poor creature quickly learns to move to the right or left, to advance or step back, at the will of his driver.

“To teach him to kneel, when his rider exclaims ‘Sh — sh — sh — !’ an attendant strikes his knees at the moment the cry is uttered. His

pace is quickened by the whip, accompanied by a loud shout.

“His training is now complete. He is no longer a colt, but a mahari.”

“I like those people best,” cried Georgey, nodding pleasantly to Annie.

“I suppose,” added the gentleman, “that the common dromedaries do not receive so finished an education. The colt is able to stand and walk

at its birth. If he is born on a march, he is generally carried for a day in the arms of a slave, or on the back of the dam, whom he then follows. I saw an account of one young lady traveller, who rode several days with a new-born foal tied to the tail of her dromedary, and the frisky little fellow seemed to have no difficulty in keeping up with his mamma."

CHAPTER V.

SIZE AND VALUE OF CAMELS.

"WILL you please, Mr. Sears, to tell us how tall camels are?" asked Willie Morse, timidly.

"The height and weight are different, my boy, in different breeds. The average height of the Arabian camel is six feet and a few inches to the top of

the hump, the head being an inch or two higher.

“The Bactrial, or two humped camel, is from six to eight and a half feet high, upward of ten feet in length, and his weight about twelve hundred pounds.

“The most common colors of the camel are mouse, drab, fawn, brown, and black. The Nubian camel is generally white, and Bactrian camels are

not unfrequently so. The favorite color, however, is a pleasing rose tint; but these are not common."

"Do camels live as long as horses, Uncle Thomas?"

"Oh yes, Georgey, and much longer! He is generally put to labor in his third year, and arrives at his full strength earlier or later in his fourth. In India he lives but twenty-five years; while a Russian officer

in the Crimea assures me that he lives ordinarily to the age of sixty or seventy, and sometimes a hundred. I suppose his average is between thirty and forty years.

“The camel, though less vicious than the horse, is not always so patient an animal as he is represented to be. He does not get angry without a cause; but when once thoroughly irritated, he long re-

members the injury which has provoked him. He sometimes strikes with the forefoot, but the cushion prevents his inflicting injury with it; his only dangerous weapon is his teeth. When he bites, he always takes the piece out.

“The camel manifests his discontent at hard usage by a harsh and ill-natured growl, especially when an attempt is made to overload him. In the

stillness of a desert the growl of a caravan preparing for the morning's march is heard for miles around.

“ So harsh, indeed, is the growl of the camel, that one traveller states that his driver actually put a pack of wolves to flight by tweaking his camel's nose to make the beast roar.

“ Amongst themselves they are sometimes very quarrel-

some, and, after the hardest day's journey, no sooner is the baggage removed than they begin to fight, when they often give each other the most savage bites, and are not to be separated without danger.

“ One of the favorite amusements of the Turks in Asia Minor is camel-fighting. Each being previously muzzled, they strike each other's heads, twist their necks, wrestle with their

fore legs, standing almost upright, each endeavoring to throw the other to the ground.

“Crowds attend to witness the spectacle, and as at the disgraceful dog-fights in our own country, the Turks will clap their hands, encourage their own favorites, and bet on their success. The Pasha of Smyrna used frequently to regale the people with these games in an enclosed square near his palace.

“It is, however, only at certain seasons of the year that the temper of the animal is thus excited, and that these combats take place. At other times the animal is patient of control, and apparently grateful for kind treatment.

“The senses of sight, hearing, and smell, are, as I have told you, exquisitely acute in the camel. It delights in the jingle of the bells hung about

its neck; for it is thus often ornamented, as in the times of Gideon, when he slew Zebah and Zalmunnah, and took away the ‘ornaments like the moon’ which were hung about their necks.”

“What kind of ornaments are those, Uncle Thomas?”

“It was the custom then, and is now, to hang small shells called cowries, bells, and even ornaments of silver

around the necks of the camels in a semicircle like the half moon, as we put strings of bells on our horses when we ride in sleighs. The richer a man was, of course the more costly were the ornaments with which he would adorn his camels; and, as Zebah and Zalmunnah were kings, there is no doubt the ornaments on the camels were well worth a mention in the Scriptures.

“ In England, pack-horses are sometimes decorated in this way. Perhaps on the desert the bells are necessary in order that stragglers may be able to join the caravan.

“ Camels are very fond of music, so much so that the drivers in some countries carry flutes to cheer and enliven their animals when weary with the march.

“ The Arabs often commence,

toward the close of the day's journey, a wild chant, in the minor key, which they say enlivens and inspirits the tired beasts, and by which they can accomplish much more than by blows.

“Indeed, it is so well understood by the Arabs that the camel loves singing better than shouting, that where the drivers cannot chant, special persons called camel-singers are some-

times employed to accompany the caravan."

"That is very funny," exclaimed Conny, laughing merrily.

"The Arabs, you will remember, study the character and habits of their camels from their birth. Though one of these people may own sixty of them, the number at which he is accounted rich, he is as well acquainted with the peculiari-

ties of each as with those of his own children.

“Part of Jacob’s pay for serving Laban was in camels, which he could evidently distinguish from those of his master, though the whole were kept together.”

“Perhaps they marked them, as shepherds do their sheep,” suggested Willie Morse, earnestly.

“Very like, my boy. The

Arabs have a mark branded in the side of the neck of their camels ; but it is not for their own convenience in recognizing them, but merely as a means of settling disputes if the creatures are claimed by others."

"I shouldn't think Job could have been acquainted with his six thousand camels," said Georgey, laughing.

"Nor Abraham with all his,"

returned his uncle ;“ for a great part of his property was in camels. Reuben, too, who with the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manassah took from the Hagarites fifty thousand camels in one victory, could not be expected to know them all, because they had keepers specially devoted to them.

“ In Scripture days, men’s riches were estimated by the number of their flocks, herds,

and camels. In these they traded, as our farmers do in cattle and horses ; and these formed a part of the spoils of war.

“ Jeremiah the prophet, speaking of the rewards of triumph in war, says, ‘ Camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of cattle a spoil ;’ and when David smote some of the heathen tribes about Palestine he took away with other stock and merchandize three camels.

“ These valuable animals were often used in giving royal presents. The Queen of Sheba presented to Solomon ‘ camels that bore spices and gold in abundance and precious stones ;’ and Benhadad, king of Syria, sent Hazael to Elisha with a present of ‘ forty camels’ burden,’ consisting of every good thing of Damascus.”

CHAPTER VI.

USES OF THE CAMEL.

“Now, Uncle Thomas, will you please tell the children about the Bedouins.”

“Yes, George. There are those among the Arabs who move from place to place, living in tents, and carrying their camels with them. Layard, a traveller, whose knowledge

of these tribes is unsurpassed, states that ‘ the Bedouin, from marks left by the camel, will tell whether he is loaded or unloaded, full or hungry, fatigued or fresh, the time of his passing, whether the rider was an inhabitant of the desert or the town, a friend or a foe.’ He adds that the camel he rode was often led by his guide, that those who crossed his path might not detect that it

was ridden by one not thoroughly accustomed to the management of the animal."

"You haven't told us how much camels can carry on their backs," reminded Georgey.

"Travellers give such different accounts of their ability, that it is difficult to decide accurately what they can endure; but it is probable that they can carry from five to seven hundred pounds, beside the

pack-saddle, which is never included in the weight. One of the keepers of the Grand Duke's camels, at his farm near Pisa, states that his animals would carry their own weight, which was between twelve and thirteen hundred pounds. As a general rule, the ability of the camel to rise under his load, which is put on when he is kneeling, is the measure of what he can carry.

“If the poor creature considers the burden too heavy, he refuses to rise until part of it is removed, all the time uttering shrill cries of discontent.”

“I should think they would go easier with the load put in a wagon, as for oxen,” exclaimed bright-eyed Jimmy.

“Wagons could not be drawn over the desert,” remarked Mr. Sears, smiling, “where sometimes the sand is so deep that

the camel sinks in every step, till he becomes exhausted and falls to rise no more ; but both the Arabian and Bactrian are sometimes used for draught.

“ Athenæus, a celebrated Grecian writer, mentions six double spans of camels as figuring in a ceremonial procession of one of the Ptolemies at Alexandria ; and in the Scripture we read of a chariot of camels in the prophecy of the

overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians. In the Crimea they are used for rough wagons, being simply a pair of Bactrians attached to the pole, that will make long journeys with a load of three or four thousand pounds, a distance of fifty miles, without eating, drinking, or halting."

"In Egypt, they are seen harnessed and used for ploughing and drawing stones."

“ Didn’t Queen Esther send out camels and dromedaries ? ” asked Georgey.

“ Yes, my boy ; to carry the mail or letters, by posts. It was necessary that they should be carried very quickly, to prevent the Jews from being destroyed according to Haman’s conspiracy.

“ Though the camels proceed very slowly on their march in a caravan, on account of their

heavy load, yet they are capable, especially those trained for the purpose, of great speed.

“Mehemet Ali rode without changing his camel from Suez to Cairo, a distance of eighty-four miles, in twelve hours. A French officer repeated the same feat in thirteen. Laborde travelled the distance in seventeen, and afterwards rode the same dromedary from a point opposite Cairo to Alexandria, a

distance of one hundred and fifty miles, in thirty-four hours.

“These, however, are rare instances. The ordinary day’s journey of the dromedary, without other burden than its rider, is sixty miles ; but picked animals will travel a hundred miles a day, or ten in an hour, for several successive days.

“A French officer, of high rank, states that he has ridden a favorite dromedary five hun-

dred miles in ten days; and mails have been carried from Bagdad to Damascus, upon the same animal, four hundred and eighty two miles, in seven days.

“The swiftness of this useful animal is thus described by the Arabs :

“‘When thou shall meet a heirie [a high-blooded dromedary], and say to the rider, “Salem aleek” [peace be be-



THE CLAB ON HIS DECK - 1890

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 mail have been carried from
 Bagdad to Damascus, upon the
 same animal, four hundred and
 eighty two miles, in seven
 days.

“The swiftness of this useful
 animal is thus described by
 the Arabs:

“When thou shalt meet a
 horse, he shall be called a horse
 [arab], and he shall be called a
 horse [arab]” [arab] [arab] [arab]



THE ARAB ON HIS DROMEDARY. Page 104.

tween us], ere he shall have answered, "Aleek salem" [there is peace between us], he will be afar off, and nearly out of sight; for his swiftness is like the wind.' "

"I don't think I should like to ride so fast," murmured Willie.

"No, I don't imagine you would," replied Mr. Sears, laughing merrily. "An inexperienced traveller finds it al-

most impossible to cling to the saddle, or even to catch his breath; and sometimes the violent motion produces nausea like sea-sickness and spitting of blood.

“At his ordinary speed of five or five and a half miles an hour, the seat is easier and more secure than on horseback. The fine dromedaries on the upper Nile travel so easily that the Arabs have a

proverb about them : ‘ His gait is so soft you may drink a cup of coffee while you ride him.’ ”

The children laughed.

“ It is a well-known fact,” continued the gentleman, “ that the Arabs sleep on their camels when on the march. Buckhardt, the traveller, describes the robbers who lie in wait for the caravans as jumping up behind and pillaging the load.

“ Layard, too, gives curious

accounts of the preparation and even cooking of food on the backs of camels by the Arab women during forced marches. 'One woman, mounted on a camel loaded with grain, grinds the wheat in a hand-mill; the flour is passed to her nearest neighbor, whose camel carries the water-sacks; she mixes and kneads the dough, and passes it to a third, who bakes it in a portable oven

or chafing dish, heated with wood or straw.

“ ‘ The milking of the female camels is performed with equal facility and as little delay ; and thus the march is kept up without a halt as long as the animals are able to travel. The female camels have a great plenty of milk, which is thick and nourishing, even for mankind, if it is mixed with an equal quantity of water.’ ”

CHAPTER VII.

THE CAMEL IN THE CARAVAN.

“SHALL you tell us about the caravan to-night, uncle ? ” urged Georgey, as the gentleman entered the menagerie.

“ Yes ; I think we have come to that in the history of the camel. Well, to begin with the loading.

“ Having luggage and stores

all packed in sacks, netting or palm-leaf crates, the next thing is to load the camels and take an early start. If you are a traveller on a pleasure excursion, or a merchant going to Bagdad, it is the same, except that the first is likely to be cheated by the Arabs, and made to hire a great many more camels than is at all necessary; while the last, being used to the business, puts

a sudden stop to their shrill tones of explanation and banter.

“The camels then being well fed for the journey, and their humps plump and fat, are brought forward, kneel down, an operation which looks like a painful one, as they with a sudden jerk throw themselves forward on their fore knees, and then, with another, double the hind leg under them.

“At this stage of the proceedings, you must prepare yourself for much shrill shouting, vehement quarrelling, and passionate exclamation on the part of the Arabs, and the alternate coaxing and scolding of your native servant before the patient brutes are fairly loaded, and the burden secured with ropes and netting. There is no danger now of the camels being overloaded ; for it is an

object with the Bedouins to make you hire as many of his animals as possible to increase your bill.

“Before you mount your own dromedary, it is safe to examine him and see that your saddle and appurtenances are arranged to your liking; and here let me caution you to be sure that every convenience you can need in the course of the day’s journey is hung to

your saddle pegs, or stored in the ample travelling bags beneath you.

“The halter, you will see, is of the simplest form, handsomely twisted of goat’s and camel’s hair, tastefully decorated with shells, fringes, and other ornaments, and furnished with a loop for throwing over the saddle pegs. All this you must appreciate; for in the bargain made with the Be-

douins, you have had to pay extra backsheesh (money) for this ornamented saddle.

“Of the conveniences for the journey, one of the most indispensable is the leathern water-bottle. This is a neatly made vessel, usually of Russia leather, holding a couple of quarts of water, with a large neck and a wooden stopper. If your servant has not taken the precaution to have these thor-

oughly soaked, often filled and emptied for several days, you will be likely not only to lose half the precious fluid, but to taste the wood and leather of which they are made.

“This bottle must be hung on the shady side of the camel, and well sheltered by the carpets covering your saddle.

“It is to be presumed that before this you have provided yourself either with a thick

protection for your head, or a large umbrella to shield you from the sun and wind; and therefore, as the servant is shouting in his native tongue, 'Boot and saddle,' we will proceed to mount our ungainly steeds, which are kneeling, with half-shut eyes, lazily chewing their cuds, and away to the desert.

"If you are not used to the business of mounting, you will

find it rather ticklish in the beginning; and I advise you to see that your servant keeps his foot on the knee of the camel, lest you should be suddenly thrown over his head, by his rising before you are ready for him.

“When you have grasped the saddle-pins in both hands, give the word, the servant releases the camel, when, with a sudden movement, in his

struggles to rise, he throws you violently forward, then back with his second motion, and so on, zigzag, until he has poised and steadied himself, when he suddenly steps off, and you are fairly under way ; your caravan is started, and you are off for the desert.

“This mode of travelling is novel ; but after a few days you do not feel the weariness you may have expected.

“When you have reached the end of the first march, be sure and have your tents pitched so that the wind, if there is any, shall blow the smell of the camels in the opposite direction ; and then having eaten your repast, which you have brought with you, retire as soon as you can, in order to be ready for the early start which you have ordered for the morning.

“Do not let the quarrels of the drivers disturb you, or become much annoyed if you feel the crawling of a scorpion or the wriggle of a snake under your pillow. These are but trifles in caravan life, and you will have to get used to them.

“Before you are convinced that you have once lost yourself in sleep, you are aroused by the sight of lanterns, dimly burning, and, pulling aside the

curtain of your tent, witness with dismay the breaking up of the camp, and the noisy preparations for breakfast; then the repacking of the luggage, eating, breaking up, and loading the mules consumes full two hours, so that the day has fairly begun before you are off.

“As the camels are fed only at night, and then only for an hour or so after the halt,

they are by this time impatient for their morning meal, which they pick up for themselves, after they have started, much to the discomfiture of the riders, who are jerked, this way and that, by their effort to reach a thorny shrub growing almost out of reach.

“In this way the caravan at starting is scattered widely, and it is an hour or two more before they are fairly under

way on their day of weary travel.

“When the country is safe, if you like, you may put your dromedary to his speed, and join some of the sheikhs, who pace ahead in order to give time for a cup of coffee, or an hour’s nap, if they are so fortunate as to meet with the friendly shade of an acacia.

“At noon, pass away a half-hour eating an orange, a bis-

cuit, a bunch of dried figs, dates or apricots, and then, if weary of the violent pitching of your brute, exchange him for the horse with ten toes, unless you are afraid of the increased thirst which walking always produces.

“Toward the close of the march the sheikhs and other experienced travellers hasten on in advance of the caravan to select the spot for the en-

campment. When such a spot is found in the vicinity of a scattering thicket of shrubs which promises wood for the fire and feed for the tired beasts, the leading sheikh dismounts and plants his spear.

“The camels well understand this manoeuvre, and when they come in sight of this spear they quicken their pace and speedily join the weary group.

“Each animal, as he comes up, is made to kneel unloaded, when the knots holding their burden are unloosed, and they are turned out to feed. Carpets and cushions are spread out for your comfort ; your tent is unpacked and pitched ; your bed, camp-stool, and other conveniences are properly adjusted, fires are lighted, a cup of coffee politely sent you by the principal sheikh, which

you have the comfort of thinking was stolen from your own stores ; and then comes the noisy preparation for dinner and for bed.

“ When the camels return from their feeding, which is toward sunset, they are made to lie down about the tents, and generally secured by tying up one of the fore legs. The Arabs sit, smoke, and talk awhile around the fire, and

then, wrapping up in their blankets or tattered cloaks, they stretch themselves out on the ground, and are soon asleep.

“Such is life with the camels in the desert; and very similar to this was the life of Rebekah, when, in company with Eliezer the confidential servant of Abraham, ‘she arose and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels and followed

the man' to go and be the wife of Isaac. 'And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide, and he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel' to do him reverence."

CHAPTER VIII.

INCIDENTS OF THE CAMEL.

“I HAVE now nearly concluded the history of the camel,” commenced Mr. Sears, when he saw his young audience were in their seats. “When I have told you about the hair and skin of this patient slave of the Arab, I shall close with a story of his surprising instinct.

Although the Bactrian camels are well coated, the Arabian has short, coarse, thin hair, except about the chest, shoulders, and hips, where he has a few locks of long, thick wool. Like the wool of the sheep, it varies in fineness and softness as well as in the length of the staple and its weight. The coarser kinds, sometimes mixed with goats' hair, are twisted into halter ropes, knit into caps, or

woven into girdles, sackcloths, tent-cloths, and carpets.

“ Among the Tartars, where the wool is fine, cloths of a fine texture and great durability are made from it. You remember John the Baptist had his raiment of camel’s hair, probably of the coarser kind. It is well known that none of the fabrics sold in Europe under the name of camels’-hair are made of the wool of this

animal. Costly shawls, purporting to be camel's-hair, are woven from cashmere, in France, with oriental patterns for the home market, and with European designs for the foreign. There is a kind of shawl manufactured in Bokhara of the soft, downy hair from the belly of the dromedary, composed of two strips about eight inches in width, sewed together and ornamented with figured

borders made from a fibrous plant like a nettle. These are very costly.

“ The skin of the camel is applied to a great variety of uses. It makes water-skins, which hold the water in spite of wind and sun ; boots, which protect the foot of the traveller against the bite of the viper and the scorching of the heated sands.

“ Stripped of its hair, soaked and stretched over the frame

of a saddle, it fits itself to the shape of the wood, and, when dry, clings to it like the bark of a tree, without nail or pins.

“In the provinces of southern Russia, where it is principally used raw for thongs, straps, and the like, it is nearly equal to the skin of the ox in toughness and durability.

“The tallow, too, of the camel, when tried out, is as white as wax; and as a material for

candles scarcely inferior to that substance.

“ The story I am now going to relate to you, was related by Buckhardt, a distinguished traveller, whom I have often quoted in this book.

“ ‘ In the month of August,’ he says, ‘ a small caravan prepared to set out from Berber to Dareau. It consisted of five merchants, thirty slaves, with a goodly number of camels.

“Afraid of the robber Naym, who at that time was in the habit of waylaying travellers, and who had constant intelligence of the departure of every caravan from Berber, they determined to take a more eastern road, passing by the well Owareyk.

“They had hired a guide, who took them in safety to that place, but who lost his way from thence, the route

being very unfrequented. After five days' march in the mountains, their stock of water was exhausted, nor did they know where they were. They resolved, therefore, to direct their course toward the setting sun, hoping thus to reach the Nile ; but after two days' thirst fifteen slaves of one of the merchants died. Another of them, who had ten camels with him, thinking that the

animals might know better than their masters where water was to be found, desired his companions to tie him fast upon the saddle of the strongest camel, that he might not fall down from weakness.

“ ‘ And thus he parted from them, permitting his camels to take their way; but neither the man nor his beast were ever heard from afterwards.

“ ‘ On the eighth day after

leaving the well, the survivors came in sight of Shigree, which they immediately recognized ; but their strength was quite exhausted, and neither men nor beasts were able to move any further. Lying down under a rock, they sent two of their servants, with the two strongest remaining camels, in search of water.

“ ‘ Before these two men could reach the mountain one

of them dropped off his camel, deprived of speech, and able only to sign to his comrade that he wished to be left to his fate.

“ ‘ The survivor then continued his route ; but such was the effect of thirst upon him, that his eyes grew dim, and he lost the road, though he had often travelled over it before, and had been perfectly acquainted with it. Having

wandered about for a long time, he alighted under the shade of a tree, and tied the camel to one of its branches.

“ ‘ The beast, however, smelt the water, and, wearied, as it was, it broke the halter, and set off galloping furiously in the direction of the spring, which, as it afterwards appeared, was at half an hour’s distance.

“ ‘ The man well understand-

ing the camel's action, endeavored to follow, but could only move a few yards. He fell exhausted on the ground, and was about to breathe his last, when Providence led that way, from a neighboring encampment, Bishayre Bedouin, who, by throwing water upon the man's face, restored him to his senses.

“ ‘ They then went hastily together to the water, filled

the skins, and returning to the caravan, had the good fortune to find the sufferers still alive.

“ ‘The Bishayre received a slave for his trouble. The merchant whose camel discovered the spring was a native of Tembo in Arabia. One remarkable circumstance attending these sad scenes was the fact that the youngest slaves bore the thirst better than the rest, and that while the grown-

up boys all died, the children reached Egypt in safety.'

"The camel, whose keen scent and remarkable instinct led him to the spring, was ever after held in great veneration by all who knew the circumstances of its preservation."

CHAPTER VI.

CAMELS IN AMERICA.

NOT many days after the story of the weary march through the desert, a number of gentlemen accompanied Mr. Sears from the city to pass a few days in the family of his sister. Georgey took an early opportunity to introduce them to his menagerie, and eagerly

repeated instances of the sagacity of each animal to which his Uncle Thomas had directed his attention.

At the dinner-table the conversation turned upon the camel, and the attempts made to introduce it into our own country, when Mr. Manton, one of the visitors, remarked :

“I have read the recent book by Marsh with great interest, and see no reason why we

should not avail ourselves of the services of this patient animal."

"You said the Bactrians were the most hardy, uncle," exclaimed Georgey.

"Yes," added Mr. Manton, putting his hand approvingly on the boy's head. "We shall have to content ourselves with Bactrians."

"How fast do the Bactrians travel, sir."

“From forty to fifty miles a day, without eating, drinking, or halting. His feet require no shoeing or other protection, and he travels perfectly well on ice, snow, or frozen ground, such as abounds in those regions.

“One other important consideration,” added Mr. Sears, “is the fact that the Bactrian need never to be housed, summer nor winter. I hope the

experiment now making will succeed."

"And then I can make a journey in the desert," joyfully exclaimed Georgey, rising and clapping his hands.

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